

silk ligature, leaving both ends protruding to furnish drainage, is strongly advocated. Now we use a carefully prepared animal ligature, cut it short, close the wound, apply a comfortable protective dressing and confidently look for union by first intention, and we don't expect to hear from the ligature afterwards.

Referring to the surgery of the head, we meet at once with the matter-of-fact statement that "much has been done in the way of improvement," and the following instances are cited :

1st. An improved method of enucleation of the eye-ball.

2nd. Bowman's operation for fistula lachrymalis.

3rd. Tenotomy for strabismus.

4th. Improved methods of treating nasal polypi.

5th. Tonsillotomy.

6th. Excision of the maxillary bones for tumours.

No mention whatever is made of the operation of trephining. In his book on the principles of surgery, however, we find a description of that operation along with this commentary: "Cases admitting of this operation are extremely rare, and I never knew a successful case of it."

If time permitted us here and now to present the testimony of the ophthalmologist, the otologist, the laryngologist, and last but not least, the brain surgeon of to-day, as to the surgery of the head as a definite field for surgical effort, how marvellous would the contrast appear.

In speaking of the thoracic region, the only point considered worthy of mention by Mr. Syme, is the diagnosis and treatment of cystic tumours of the mamma. Had resection of one or more ribs for empyema been dreamed of at that time, it certainly would not have been omitted. So that we may fairly reckon that most satisfactory procedure in the long list of solid surgical advances gained within the last quarter of a century.

"Descending to the pelvis" (to use his own words), the following substantial steps are noted :

1st. The treatment of hydrocele by the injection of the tincture of iodine after tapping.

2nd. The treatment of the diseases of the rectum, fistula, fissure, hæmorrhoids and stricture by methods precisely similar to those used now. No mention is made of operations for cancer of the rectum, which are so frequently and successfully performed now-a-days, especially since the method

of first removing the coccyx, and if necessary a portion of the sacrum, has been resorted to.

Stone in the bladder and stricture of the urethra are discussed, and in the former the left lateral operation of Chcseiden is advocated, and in stricture gradual dilatation and external urethrotomy are recommended as the most suitable methods of treatment, and for my own part, I am inclined to believe that these teachings have not been materially improved upon up to the present day, although there is no doubt a certain field of usefulness for internal urethrotomy.

Speaking of the female pelvis, he says, "the most remarkable change that has taken place in the way of improvement, is in the treatment of vesico vaginal fistula, which was formerly held to be nearly if not altogether incurable, and is now remedied, no less easily than certainly, through means of silver sutures, for the introduction of which we are indebted to Dr. Marion Sims." In contrast with this brief but authoritative utterance of the foremost surgeon of Europe twenty-seven years ago, we have to set the whole science and art of gynæcological surgery with its magnificent record of brilliant discoveries in pathology, and its still more brilliant operative procedures for the relief of suffering and saving of life. Add to this the marvellous fact that there is hardly a single viscus contained in the *abdominal* cavity that has not during these few intervening years been securely placed within the reach of the surgeon's diagnostic and operative power.

To even enumerate the individual operations and other definite and assured gains of this great field of modern surgery, would require an expenditure of time which we cannot afford; besides, to such an audience as I have the honour of addressing, any such enumeration being superfluous.

It is in regard to the contents of the various cavities of the body, the cranium, the thorax, the abdomen, the pelvis, that the most valuable and the most astonishing surgical advances have been made, and I think it is no more than the simple truth to say that neither Syme, nor any single individual of his time, were able in their most hopeful and prophetic moments of surgical aspiration to even conceive of anything approaching such results as have been positively and permanently arrived at.